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Histoire de la Sépulture et des Funérailles dans l'Ancienne Egypte, par E. AMÉLINEAU. Paris, 1896. (Annales du Musée Guimet) pp. 336 and 345.

These volumes, the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth of the Museum, consist of the history of sepulture and funeral rites in ancient Egypt, and are illustrated by 112 wood cuts. The profound influence of the form of Egyptian belief in immortality dominated art, architecture, etc., and no country is fuller of monuments of this belief than Egypt. The monuments, tombs, etc., are described historically, and with great detail; although all the chapters are exceedingly objective, the author does not hesitate to pause for interpretations sufficient to define his standpoint for the reader.

Affirmations, by HAVELOCK ELLIS. London, 1898. pp. 248.

"How happy the world might be if there was no literature but the Bible, if Augustine, Aquinas, Calvin, and thousands of smaller men, had not danced upon it so long, stamping every page into mire." The author has been all his life casting away knowledge gained from books and literature and coming toward that haven of knowledge where a child is king. Very different from this is the literature of life, and the author uses Nietzsche, Casanova, Zola, Huysmann, and St. Francis, essays on whom make up the book, as stalking horses to creep up more closely to the life his soul loves so well. He has a special predilection for questionable themes and deems it useless to discuss others, although certainty is the end of all. He desires to settle a few things, clean out the Augean stables, and recall the simple, eternal facts of existence. Yet for every man his own affirmations are always the best. The essays are written in a sprightly style, and while they presuppose some things about the author treated, make the best of all introductions to them.

The Problems of Philosophy, by JOHN G. HIBBEN, Ph. D., Stuart Professor of Logic, Princeton University. New York, 1898. pp. 203.

As an introduction to the study of philosophy, the author's design is to indicate between points at issue on controverted questions without details or exhaustive criticism. It is assumed that the student who is beginning the history of philosophy will find himself at a loss to understand the relation between earlier and later periods, and will lack proper perspective to appreciate the drift of opinions. After the plea for philosophy, the successive chapters discuss the problem of ontology, cosmology, psychology, epistemology, logic, ethics, political science and æsthetics. The standpoint is that of idealism, the method lucid, and the book attractively printed and bound, and conveniently indexed.

The Skin Considered as an Organ of Sensation, by J. S. LEMON, Ph. D. Gardner, Mass., 1899. pp. 56.

Dr. Lemon, a former pupil of Clark, here treats the genesis of touch and of the skin and nervous system; the resumés of different theories about these topics and central localization; analyses of different skin senses and the recent experimental investigation upon them; discusses illusions, etc. The strong point of the paper is perhaps the author's study of the earlier history and literature of the subject. From one to half a dozen writings by 128 authors are appended.

The Doctrine of Energy. The Theory of Reality. By B. L. L. London, 1898. pp. 108.

The author has previously published essays entitled, "Matter and Energy," and "Are There Two Real Things in the Physical Universe?"

His theory was that the present conception of energy supersedes the idea of matter and by itself explains all the real elements in all physical phenomena. This view is now presented from the metaphysical standpoint. What we call volition in all its forms is dependent upon the unseen energetic substratum "whose transmutations to volition merely initiates and works, and it is natural to suppose that all the motions and transmutations of this energy are similarly originated by the supreme intelligence or will." Intelligence and this unseen basis on which all its actions are exerted and out of which its perceptions are derived, are the two real entities which reason must predicate. Sense phenomena result from their interaction and are a mere quality of that phenomenal world which contains neither of the real entities.

Der Körper des Menschen, von DR. A. BRASS. Wernigerode a. H. 1898.

This is the first installment of the first of three volumes, entitled development history, which is to contain an atlas with many illustrations in color. All is to be written in a way to represent the present state of science and to be easily intelligible by all. This first section of sixty-two pages, four of which are devoted to wood cuts and three to colored engravings, treats of sex and reproduction. Technical terms are avoided when possible, and when not, they are very briefly explained, and the style is certainly very simple, and many facts are stated as though written from a large fund of information.

Guesses at the Riddle of Existence and other Essays on Kindred Subjects, by GOLDWIN SMITH. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1898. pp. 244.

Three of these five papers have appeared in the North American Review or Forum, and all are written according to the view that amidst all the religious doubts and perplexities of the present are that our salvation can only be found in uncompromising allegiance to the truth. The spirit is not agnosticism but hopeful inquiry; despite the collapse of proofs of a supreme being, our hearts affirm him. The church and the Old Testament; the miraculous element in Christianity; morality and theism are some of the other topics treated.

Spiritual Consciousness, by FRANK H. SPRAGUE. Wollaston, Mass., 1898. pp. 238.

Men have been fed on the dry husks of materialism until they cry out for something better. Spiritualism, Christian Science, spiritual healing, theosophy mark an earnest desire to reach the inmost kernel of life. This and the tendency of the age toward unity are everywhere noted, and in a few points are sought. These tendencies are discussed in chapters entitled: what is truth; realization of ideals through right thinking; the outer and inner world; consciousness; Christianity; growth of society; the problem of evil; spiritual basis of love; manifestations of the spiritual principle; music, art and nature. There is almost no reference to literature, and the earnestness and seriousness of the author are impressed on every page.

Destinée de l'Homme, par M. l'ABBÉ C. PIAT. Paris, 1898. pp. 244.

The primary certainties in the world are psychological, that is, spiritual, and their quality and intensity are fundamental. The unknowable is especially found in our passions. Eternity of the ideas does not imply that of human thought, and we cannot reason from their nature to the quality of the soul. Our theory of impersonal reasons cannot be proven. Liberty cannot solve the problems of the unconscious limits and bases of our mental being. Thought and nerve action